

Remarks by U.S. Ambassador to Canada Paul Cellucci
“The American Perspective on the Border”
Keynote Address to the Can/Am Border Trade Alliance
Ottawa
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Thank you very much.

It is great to be back with the Can/Am Border Trade Alliance. This group has contributed greatly to making sure we keep our border open to trade, commerce, tourism, legitimate travellers, and closed down to the terrorists, drug pushers, smugglers, and others that would seek to break the law.

I think it would be important to spend just a few minutes reflecting on what we have accomplished. Jim mentioned the Smart Border Action Plan that was signed here in Ottawa on December of 2001. That was a significant accomplishment. It was one that came from the top. President Bush and Prime Minister Chrétien knew right away that we had to take steps to make sure the border remained open. It was in each of our national interests to do so. That is exactly what we did. Here we are, two-and-a-half years later, and we have accomplished a lot.

We have got that FAST program up and running now at 12 high-volume commercial crossings.

We have rolled out NEXUS. We are looking at NEXUS AIR, probably a pilot program next year. We are looking at NEXUS MARINE pilot in the Detroit area.

We are using technology. I know that there will be issues – that is why Jim Williams is here from U.S. VISIT. We want to make sure that these programs are as inter-operable as possible. We need to make sure that we use technology to do so.

We will be looking for input from all of you as to how we continue to roll these programs out to make sure they are complementary, to make sure that they are inter-operable with other requirements in both U.S. and Canadian law, so that we can continue to make sure that border remains facilitative.

We have established now 14 Integrated Border Enforcement Teams covering every part of the U.S.-Canada border. The Integrated Border Enforcement Teams are U.S.-Canadian law enforcement agencies and each level of government, including in some areas tribal police, working together so that we can use good intelligence and good law enforcement to stop criminals before they ever get to the border.

This is very consistent with the whole Smart Border Action Plan concept - that is, to do as much as we can away from the border. And these "IBETs" are proving extremely critical, not only in stopping the crime, but in taking pressure off the border as well.

We have worked together. We still call it a "Zone of Confidence" in North America. Both Canada and the United States have taken steps to do a much better job as we look at people coming in from overseas. We share intelligence, who is on the watch list. We are looking at passenger information so we can do risk analysis. We are cooperating overseas before people even get on the airplanes. And we are working together on the Port Security Initiative because, as you know, we have millions of shipping containers coming into North America each and every year.

I think it is important to note that last week, in my view, was a very significant week in this effort along the border. I have been speaking quite often in the United States and here in Canada and I always make the point -- and I think it is a simple point but it is very true -- that in the United States, we cannot defend our homeland without the help of Canada.

When you think of the fact that we have a 5,500 mile common border; that Canada is our northern neighbour; that this is potentially a launching pad for the terrorists to get into the United States; it is critically important that we work with Canadian law enforcement and intelligence agencies to stop that threat. Simply put, we cannot do our job without the help of Canada. Two things happened last week that I think really brought that home.

One was the issuance by the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada of Canada's new National Security Policy. There were three principal objectives or goals spelled out. One, protect Canadian citizens both home and abroad. The third one was to contribute to international security, as Canada is doing in Afghanistan and Haiti, and contributing to reconstruction in Iraq.

But the second point I think is the relevant one for today's discussion. That second point in the National Security Policy of Canada is to ensure that Canada is not a base for threats to our allies. That is basically the same thing that I have been pointing out in my speeches. That recognizes in Canada that in the United States, we cannot defend our homeland without the help of Canada.

If you look at the National Security Policy, you will see that there are significant new monies for intelligence, including an integrated threat assessment center. There is money for port and marine security. The Royal

Canadian Mounted Police will get real time identification projects so that they can do finger prints right away.

So you take the National Security Policy, you add to that the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness that was established when the new government came in back in December under the very able leadership of the Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan, and you begin to see that we really are working together here in North America to meet this terrorist threat.

Then to conclude the week, Prime Minister Martin was in Washington speaking to Congressional leaders on Thursday and meeting with President Bush on Friday. He told the President that he feels this threat against Canadian cities just as the President feels the threat towards U.S. cities. So we had these two leaders who are really on the same wavelength. They recognize that the threat is real.

I would love to stand before you today and tell you that things are safer, that the threat has receded. Unfortunately, I cannot do that. The threat is real and we must continue to work together to defeat this threat and protect the people in Canada and the United States.

So I thought that it was pretty significant week for U.S.-Canada relations. I think that you could tell that this cooperation, this working together, is clearly in each of our national interests. It is what we are doing. It is what we absolutely must continue to do.

It also points to the larger U.S.-Canada relationship and the fact that we share some pretty fundamental goals here in North America and around the globe.

One of those goals is to defeat the international terrorist threat. It is not just about stopping the terrorists here in North America. It is about stopping them in other parts of the world. It is about disrupting their training facilities, their financing, their ability to recruit supporters. That is why we are quite grateful to the role that Canada is playing in Afghanistan with Canadian forces leading that stabilization force. The role that Canada is playing in the rehabilitation of Iraq, not only with financial assistance but with training of police officers, something that is desperately needed in that country.

We are also quite encouraged by the Defence and Foreign Policy Review that the Prime Minister has ordered and the fact that he is committed to making sure that the Canadian military will continue to be able to play the very important role and deploy here, defending North America and in peace-keeping missions around the globe.

We are also working together to promote international prosperity. I know this issue of outsourcing and of globalization has become an issue in the campaigns here and in the United States of America. I think both of our countries are pretty solidly in the free trade column. I think there are protectionist impulses in both of our countries. But I think that both countries will continue to move down the road of trade liberalization because we recognize, first of all, that it is the right thing to do.

We live here in North America, Canada and the United States. We have free and open societies that respect individual and human rights. We have strong economies that create jobs and prosperity and a good life to most of our citizens. Let's not forget that billions live on this planet in abject poverty. That is not a good thing for them and for their families. It is the right thing to try to help countries, especially failed states like Afghanistan, create the climate for investment and trade so economies can grow and people can be lifted out of poverty.

I would argue also that it is in our economic interest. I think if you look at the North American Free Trade Agreement, you will see that that has been a win for Canada, a win for the United States, and a win for Mexico. It has helped Mexico lift a lot of people out of poverty. Today, their families have a better life. They also become middle-class consumers and they can purchase U.S. and Canadian-made goods and services. So it is in our economic interest.

I also believe it is in our security interest. I mentioned Afghanistan, which was a failed state. It was a training ground for terrorists. People had no voice in their government. They had no hope for opportunity. Women couldn't even come out of the house for the most part. Young girls were not able to go to school. It was not a very good society. That is changing.

We are changing things in Iraq. The news is not always good coming out of Iraq. But a year ago they had one newspaper; today, they have over 100. The freedom of speech has returned.

I do believe that if we can help countries create a climate for investment and trade, adopt the rule of law, establish democratic ways, we will give people a voice in their government, we will give them hope and opportunity in their lives, and we will help those economies grow.

We can't do it through foreign aid. Foreign aid will help. They can use that aid to establish a judicial system that respects the rule of law. We can use foreign aid to build the road to open up a resource that will help an economy. But let's not ever forget the trade and investment figures dwarf foreign aid figures. You do not lift people out of poverty with foreign aid. You lift

people out of poverty with trade and investment that creates an economy. That creates jobs for people so they can come out of poverty.

So Canada and the United States are working with the Free Trade Area of the Americas and at the WTO to promote trade liberalization, to bring prosperity to more and more people around the world so they can have a better life, so it will benefit our economies. And so that we won't have these failed states that train terrorists. We won't have people who have no hope and opportunity in their lives so they turn to terrorist activities.

We are also working together here in North America to protect our beautiful natural resources. We are working together on a number of environmental issues, including global warming.

We don't always get credit for that in the United States. We are spending about \$4.5 billion per year -- more than any other country in the world -- on global warming. In fact, we spending more than Europe and Japan combined.

We want to get the science right. We want to address the problem without the diminution of our standard of living and, yes, we are working quite closely with Canada. We have a working group on this. They were just here a couple of weeks ago. We are working on things like carbon sequestration, the earth observation summit and the hydrogen economy, which will remove our dependence on fossil fuels in the future.

We are also working together on energy self-sufficiency to the greatest extent possible here in North America, to establish a North American Energy Working Group with Canada, U.S., and Mexico. I know a lot of attention goes to sources of supply. Of course, every time you talk about sources, Canada looms large with the oil sands, with the northern rivers. But it is not just about the sources, it is also about the infrastructure to get the resource to where it is needed. We are talking about pipelines. We are talking about transmission lines.

We had a very successful, I believe, task force that looked at the causes of the black out last summer, another example of how interconnected and dependent our two countries are. When the lights went out in New York, they went out in Toronto as well. It did point out the need for modernization of the infrastructure, mandatory reliability standards and a regulatory climate that encourages the investment in the grid and the pipelines as well as in resources.

I mention these goals because these are goals that Canada and the United States share: defeating this international terrorist threat, promoting international prosperity, protecting the natural resources of North America,

and working to make sure we have the energy to power the economies of Canada, the United States and Mexico.

The simple fact of the matter is that we share these goals and it is in each of our national interests to work together. That is exactly what we have done and that is exactly what we saw last week with the announcements here in Canada and with the very good meetings the Prime Minister had down in Washington.

One final point, just to get back to the border and close off my remarks. I notice that you have some discussion in your conference about bridges. I think that as much as we have made progress on the border, this is one that we must continue to make this a priority. I think that your group can help us do that. To some extent, what we have accomplished at the border with more resources and better technology and FAST lanes was the easy part.

We did it quickly. But when we think about the trade growing, the tourism growing, the travel growing, we also have to look at the whole issue of roads, bridges, and tunnels. We have to have the capacity to handle the commerce and the flow of traffic. The fact that you have to go through 17 or 18 stop lights in Windsor to get to the Ambassador Bridge is a problem that I know people are working on. We have got the Peace Bridge in Buffalo that has been closed to expand the capacity there.

These are not easy issues because they involve both national governments, they involve states and provinces, and they involve the municipalities where these border crossings are.

So I think it is very important that we keep the focus on this. Because if you have a great picture NEXUS card and your FAST card but you are stuck five miles up the highway, then you can't get to the FAST lane. We need to make sure we have the capacity to make this work for the economies of both of our countries.

So I want to commend you again for your ongoing efforts. I want to urge you to keep that infrastructure high on the agenda list for both of our governments and we look forward to working with you in the months ahead.

Thank you very much.